

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1-8 and 10-11 are amended, and Claims 12-14 added. Because support for the amendments and newly added claims is provided in the application as originally filed, for example, see page 3 line 17 to page 4 line 1; page 8 line 17-25; page 9 line 23-25; and Figure 1, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is presented herein.

Objection to the Declaration

The Office Action objects to the oath or declaration for being defective. The Office Action asserts that the Declaration is defective because it does not identify the mailing address of the inventor. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the assertion made by the Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that the Patent Office apparently inadvertently cut off the information relating to the Citizenship and Post Office Address of the inventor when electronically scanning the Declaration into the PTO database. Applicant respectfully points out that the copy of the Declaration on PAIR (copy enclosed herein for the convenience of the Examiner) only includes the full Name of the Inventor, the Inventor's signature, and the Inventor's Residence. However, the actual Declaration filed with the application on January 20, 2004 also included the Inventor's Citizenship and Post Office Address. Applicant encloses herein a complete copy of the Declaration that was filed with the application and respectfully submits that the Declaration is not defective as it fully complies with the requirements governing the content of Declarations filed with non-provisional patent applications.

Withdrawal of the objection to the Declaration is therefore respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

Figure 4 is objected to because only that which is old is illustrated therein. Enclosed herein is a Replacement Sheet of formal drawing Figure 4, which has been amended to include a "Prior art" legend.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Abstract

The Abstract is objected to for containing informalities. Enclosed herein is a Substitute Abstract, which is believed to address the informalities contained in the originally filed Abstract. A marked-up version of the originally filed Abstract is also enclosed indicating the changes made thereto.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Title

The Title of the invention was objected to as not being descriptive of the invention. The Applicant has amended the Title in a manner believed to be responsive to the objection.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Disclosure

The disclosure of the invention is objected to for lacking a description of Figure 4. The Applicant has amended the Specification to include a brief description of Figure 4.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Objection to Claim 11

Claim 11 of the invention was objected to as being improper form. The Applicant has amended Claim 11 responsive to the objection.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. The Applicant has amended the claims in a manner believed to be responsive to the rejection.

Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being incomplete. The Applicant has amended the claims in a manner believed to be responsive to the rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102/§103

Claim 1-4 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2006/0182680 to Keefer et al. (Keefer). Claim 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keefer et al. (Keefer) as applied to claims 2-4 above, and further view of Carr et al 4,233,132. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keefer et al. (Keefer) as applied to claims 3-4, 8 above, and further view of AAPA.

Applicant respectfully traverses each of the rejections for at least the following reason(s).

Claim 1 recites a hydrogen supply unit including, among other features, a fuel cell consuming a reformed gas; and purification means for purifying hydrogen in an

exhaust gas discharged from the fuel cell, wherein the purification means receives the exhaust gas containing hydrogen therein, wherein the exhaust gas is discharged **only** from the fuel cell. In other words, the exhaust gas fed to the purification means comes only from the fuel cell.

Keefer fails to disclose, teach or remotely suggest such a feature.

Keefer discloses a system including a hydrogen purification PSA system 205 that is both upstream and downstream of a fuel cell 202. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the purification PSA system 205 receives an exhaust gas containing hydrogen from a steam reforming fuel processor 204 via line 270, **and** receives an exhaust gas from the fuel cell 202, via line 280. See Figure 6 of Keefer.

Therefore, Keefer does not teach that the purification PSA system 205 receives an exhaust gas discharged only from the fuel cell 202 since the purification PSA system 205 also receives an exhaust gas from the fuel cell 202. Claim 1 recites such a feature. In view of the above, Applicant submits that Keefer does not derive the benefit of the amount of offgas discharged from the purification means being reduced by purifying the exhaust gas from the fuel cell with the aid of the purification means. The invention recited by Claim 1 derives such a benefit.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that Keefer does not disclose each and every feature recited by Claim 1.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, each and every feature recited by a rejected claim must be disclosed by the applied art of record. Since Keefer does not disclose each and every feature recited by Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that

Keefer does not anticipate Claim 1, and that Claim 1 should be deemed allowable over Keefer.

Carr is applied for disclosing an apparatus that produces purified hydrogen having electrodes separated by a material and means for imposing electrical potential across the electrode generating the hydrogen. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Carr does not cure the deficiencies of Keefer.

The AAPA is applied for teaching a storage tank that stores purified hydrogen and which has not been used by a fuel cell. As such, the Applicant respectfully submits that the AAPA also does not cure the deficiencies of Keefer.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by or rendered obvious in view of the applied art of record.

Claims 2-14 depend from Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable for at least the same reason(s) Claim 1 is allowable as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.


Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, allowance of Claims 1-14, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Dkt. No. 101175.00045.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Replacement Sheet of Drawing Figure 4
True Copy of Declaration as Filed
Copy of Declaration as appearing in PAIR
Information Disclosure Statement w/3 references